



Why is the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) Data Collection more important than ever?

- ❖ This the only Humboldt County data that tracks the oral health status of local children.
- ❖ One in four children entering Kindergarten in Humboldt County have untreated dental decay.
- ❖ When left untreated, decay can lead to pain and infection that may require emergency room treatment.
- ❖ Dental decay is the number one childhood disease and the leading cause of children being absent or inattentive at school.
- ❖ Absenteeism lowers student achievement and drains funding from school districts.

What can school districts do to help?

- ❖ One month before school starts, schools should send a parent notification letter home to all parents of incoming Kindergartners.
- ❖ Include the KOHA form in Kindergarten registration packets.
- ❖ Encourage parents to have an oral health assessment completed within their child's first year of school. Collect the forms throughout the school year to compile data prior to May 31.
- ❖ Help raise awareness about the relationship between oral health and overall health, to ensure that all children are healthy and ready for school.
- ❖ Send the completed Oral Health Assessment Data Collection form to Pennie Lee at HCOE by May 31.

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